

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-51 (Canceled).

52. (New) A method for device management in a grouped server system, comprising:

creating a request for a device on a desktop unit via a device service on at least one of a first server and a second server;

transferring said request from a first device manager in said first server to a second device manager in said second server, said first device manager being coupled to said device service;

allocating said device to said device service via said second device manager; and

informing said first device manager of said allocation via said second device manager.

53. (New) The method of Claim 52, wherein said request comprises desired capabilities for said device.

54. (New) The method of Claim 52, wherein said first server and said second server operate in a group, further comprising:

establishing a first communication path between said first device manager and said second device manager; and

establishing a second communication path between said desktop unit and said second device manager.

55. (New) The method of Claim 54, wherein said establishing said first communication path comprises receiving a group list, said group list comprising grouping information of device managers in said group.

56. (New) The method of Claim 54, wherein said establishing said second communication path comprises said desktop unit arbitrarily connecting to said second device manager.

57. (New) The method of Claim 52, further comprising:
creating a first device list via said first device manager; and
creating a second device list via said second device manager;
wherein said first device list is segregated from said second device list.

58. (New) The method of Claim 57, wherein said first device list comprises device records for devices managed by said first device manager.

59. (New) The method of Claim 57, wherein said first device list comprises device records for devices managed by both of said first device manager and said second device manager and wherein said second device list comprises device records for devices managed by said second device manager.

60. (New) The method of Claim 57, wherein said first device list comprises device records for devices managed by said first device manager and peer device managers in said grouped server system.

61. (New) The method of Claim 60, wherein said grouped server system comprises said first device manager, said second device manager, said peer device managers, said desktop unit, and a plurality of other desktop units all coupled to each other via an interconnect, further comprising:

identifying which device manager manages which device.

62. (New) The method of any of Claim 52, further comprising:
creating a finder in accordance with said request via said first device manager.

A 63. (New) The method of Claim 62, further comprising:
searching a first device list coupled to said first device manager for a device matching said finder.

64. (New) The method of Claim 63, further comprising:
storing said finder in said first server.

65. (New) The method of Claim 52, wherein said transferring said request to said second device manager comprises said second device manager creating a finder in accordance with said request.

66. (New) The method of Claim 65, further comprising:
searching a device list coupled to said second device manager for a device matching said finder.

67. (New) The method of Claim 65, further comprising:
storing said finder locally in said second server.

68. (New) The method of Claim 52, further comprising:
determining which device manager manages said device; and
informing said device service of said managing device manager.

69. (New) The method of Claim 52, wherein a user needs said device service
to operate said device on said desktop unit.

70. (New) The method of Claim 52, further comprising:
time stamping a message generated at said desktop unit;
wherein said message is used to determine which device manager manages said
device on said desktop unit.

71. (New) The method of Claim 70, wherein said time stamping occurs when
said message is generated.

72. (New) The method of Claim 70, further comprising:
maintaining a universal clock among all servers in said grouped server system;
wherein said time stamping is based on said universal clock.

73. (New) The method of Claim 52, further comprising:
determining which device manager manages said device; and
forwarding said request to said determined device manager that manages said
device.

74. (New) The method of Claim 73, wherein said determined device manager
that manages said device is located in one server and said service is located in another
server.

75. (New) The method of Claim 73, wherein said first server comprises a first device list, said first device list comprising a device record for said device, further comprising:

transferring said device record to said second device manager in said second server; and

updating a second device list to include said device record via said second device manager.

A 76. (New) The method of Claim 75, further comprising:
matching said request with said device record in said second device list;
wherein said determining which device manager manages said device is determined from said second device list.

77. (New) The method of Claim 52, further comprising:
generating a device list for said first manager and said second device manager;
wherein said device list comprises devices managed by a device manager; and
wherein said device list further comprises devices managed by peer device managers, further comprising:
transferring device data between said peer device managers.

78. (New) The method of Claim 52, further comprising:
maintaining a persistent connection between said desktop unit and a single device manager.

79. (New) The method of Claim 78, further comprising:
establishing a first communication path between said desktop unit and said first device manager; and
terminating said first communication path; and
establishing a second communication path between said desktop unit and said second device manager when an event occurs.

80. (New) The method of Claim 79, wherein said event comprises resetting said desktop unit.

A 81. (New) The method of Claim 79, wherein said event comprises failure of said first device manager.

82. (New) A grouped server system, comprising:
an interconnect;
a plurality of servers, each of said servers having a device manager;
a plurality of device services located on said servers;
a plurality of desktop units coupled to said servers via said interconnect, each desktop unit being coupled to one of said device managers; and
a plurality of peripheral devices located on said desktop units;
wherein said device managers on said servers broker said peripheral devices on said desktop units to said device services on said servers; and
wherein said device managers are operating in a group.

83. (New) The grouped server system of Claim 82, wherein each of said device managers is coupled to a device list and wherein said devices lists are segregated from each other.

84. (New) The grouped server system of Claim 83, wherein each of said device lists comprises data of peripheral devices managed by said device manager coupled to said device list.

85. (New) The grouped server system of Claim 84, wherein said device list further comprises data of devices managed by peer device managers coupled to said device list.

A 86. (New) The grouped server system of Claim 82, further comprising a universal time clock for time stamping messages indicating which device manager is managing which desktop unit.

87. (New) The grouped server system of Claim 82, wherein each of said device managers can be used to broker a peripheral device managed by a first device manager to a device service coupled to a peer device manager.

88. (New) The grouped server system Claim 82, further comprising a finder comprising scoping rules from at least one of said device services.

89. (New) The grouped server system Claim 82, wherein at least one of said device services is coupled to at least one of said device managers, said at least one of said device services communicating a first device report and a first allocation request with said at least one of said device managers.

90. (New) The grouped server system of Claim 89, wherein said at least one of said device services is coupled to at least one of said plurality of desktop units, said at least one of said device services communicating device data with said at least one of said plurality of desktop units.

91. (New) The grouped server system of Claim 90, wherein said at least one of said device managers is coupled to said at least one of said plurality of desktop units, said at least one of said device managers communicating a second device report and a second allocation request with said at least one of said plurality of desktop units.

A 92. (New) The grouped server system Claim 82, wherein each of said device managers can provide a device driver for a peripheral device managed by other device managers in said grouped server system, wherein each of said device managers can maintain a first database comprising device data and a second database comprising scoping rules from a device service, wherein each of said device managers can search for a match between said first database and said second database, and wherein each of said device managers can forward a request to other device managers in said grouped server system if no match is found.

93. (New) A computer readable medium for implementing an instruction set for maintaining a persistent connection between a desktop unit and a single device manager comprising:

a first instruction set for establishing a first communication path between said desktop unit and a first device manager; and

a second instruction set for establishing a second communication path between said desktop unit and a second device manager when an event occurs;

wherein said event comprises failure of said first device manager;

wherein said first device manager and said second device manager operate in a group;

wherein a device service for said device can be located in a first server; and

wherein said second device manager is located in a second server and said first device manager is located in said first server.